The Wayback Machine - https://web.archive.org/web/20241229091921/https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html

COVID-19

OCTOBER 3, 2024

Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines

WHAT TO KNOW

- Everyone ages 6 months and older should get a 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine.
- The COVID-19 vaccine helps protect you from severe illness, hospitalization, and death.
- It is especially important to get your 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine if you are ages 65 and older, are at high risk for severe COVID-19, or have never received a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Vaccine protection decreases over time, so it is important to get your 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine.

Who needs a COVID-19 vaccine

Reminder

Everyone ages 6 months and older should get the 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine. This includes people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine, people who have had COVID-19, and people with long COVID.

Importance of staying up to date

- Getting the 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine is important because:
  - Protection from the COVID-19 vaccine decreases with time.
  - Immunity after COVID-19 infection decreases with time.
  - COVID-19 vaccines are updated to give you the best protection from the currently circulating strains.
- Getting the 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine is especially important if you:
  - Never received a COVID-19 vaccine
  - Are ages 65 years and older
  - Are at high risk for severe COVID-19
  - Are living in a long-term care facility
  - Are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant, or might become pregnant in the future.
  - Want to lower your risk of getting Long COVID

Keep in mind

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer, more reliable way to build protection than getting sick with COVID-19.

Learn more about the benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine

When are you up to date?

Children ages 6 months–4 years

- Your child is up to date when they have received all recommended doses, including at least 1 dose of the 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine.

If your child previously had:	Your child should get:
0 doses (was never vaccinated)	2 doses of the 2024–2025 Moderna vaccine **OR** 3 doses of the 2024–2025 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine
1 or more doses of Moderna vaccine	1 dose of the 2024–2025 Moderna vaccine
1 dose of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine	2 doses of the 2024–2025 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine
2 or more doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine	1 dose of the 2024–2025 Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine

Children ages 5–11 years

- Your child is up to date when they have received:
  - 1 dose of the 2024–2025 Moderna COVID-19 vaccine **OR**
  - 1 dose of the 2024–2025 Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

People ages 12–64 years

- You are up to date when you have received:
  - 1 dose of the 2024–2025 Moderna COVID-19 vaccine **OR**
  - 1 dose of the 2024–2025 Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine **OR**
  - 1 dose of the 2024–2025 Novavax vaccine unless you are receiving a COVID-19 vaccine for the very first time. If you have never received any COVID-19 vaccine and get Novavax, you need 2 doses of 2024–2025 Novavax COVID-19 vaccine to be up to date.

People ages 65 years and older

You are up to date when you have received:

- 2 doses of any 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine 6 months apart.
  - While it is the *recommended* to get 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine doses 6 months apart, the *minimum* time is 2 months apart, which allows flexibility to get the second dose prior to typical COVID-19 surges, travel, life events, and healthcare visits

Exceptions:

- If you are receiving a COVID-19 vaccine for the first time and getting Novavax, you need:
  - 2 doses of 2024–2025 Novavax COVID-19 vaccine 3–8 weeks apart
  - A 3rd dose of any COVID-19 vaccine 6 months later
- If you received 1 dose of Novavax vaccine before the 2024–2025 vaccine, you need:
  - A 2nd dose of 2024–2025 Novavax vaccine **AND**
  - A 3rd dose of any 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine 6 months later

People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised

There are different recommendations if you are moderately or severely immunocompromised; see Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People.

People who recently had COVID-19

- If you recently had COVID-19, you ***may*** delay getting a COVID-19 vaccine for 3 months after symptoms started **OR** after receiving a positive test with no symptoms
- The risk of getting COVID-19 is less likely in the weeks to months following a SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Certain factors could be **reasons to get a vaccine sooner rather than later**, such as:
  - Personal risk of severe COVID-19

- Risk of severe COVID-19 in a family or household member or other close contact
- Local levels of COVID-19 illness

Recommended COVID-19 Vaccines

Three vaccines are available for use in the United States. There is no preference for one vaccine over the other when more than one vaccine is recommended for an age group.

- The 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccines more closely target the JN.1 lineage of the Omicron variant. 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccines are updated to give you the best protection from the currently circulating strains.

Vaccine	Recommended for:
2024–2025 Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine	Everyone ages 6 months and older
2024–2025 Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine	Everyone ages 6 months and older
2024–2025 Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine	Everyone ages 12 years and older

Keep Reading:
COVID-19 Vaccine Basics

Keep Reading:
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Safety

SOURCES

CONTENT SOURCE:
National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases; Coronavirus and Other Respiratory Viruses Division